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An invitation to industrial corporations, professional organizations and trade associations to join in research

National Bureau of Standards
U.S. Department of Commerce

Research Associate Program

Research Associates and their sponsoring employers benefit by the extensive resources of the National Bureau of Standards... instrumentation... techniques... facilities... and the skills of the staff

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The National Bureau of Standards Research Associate Program — A Brief History

The NBS Research Associate Program had its origin in Federal legislation of 1892 which allowed qualified scientific investigators and students to use Federal scientific and technical facilities. This legislation was extended in 1901 to specifically encompass the newly established National Bureau of Standards. The extension was drafted by the Washington Academy of Sciences based on a resolution by Dr. Alexander Graham Bell.

A formal Research Associate Program was initiated in 1921 when the first Director of NBS, Dr. Samual Wesley Stratton, officially appointed six associates to work in metallurgy. Since that time, more than 500 different industrial firms and associations have sponsored more than 1500 Research Associates in the NBS laboratories. Also, NBS instituted a variety of similar programs which encourages professors, students and other guest workers to join in research in the NBS laboratories. Collaboration has become a way of life within the NBS laboratories.

NBS has found the Research Associate Program to be an effective means for transfer of technology, and in particular, measurement know-how. NBS research on the forefront of science and technology and research facilities designed to accommodate associates are readily accessible to private industry. In keeping with the current Nation-wide emphasis on industrial/university/governmental cooperation, interest in the NBS Research Associate Program is at an all time high. The number of Research Associates sponsored by industrial organizations grew to more than 200 in 1985. The number of professors, students and guest workers is several times larger and is growing in a similar manner.

Questions and Answers about the Research Associate Program

WHAT IS THE RESEARCH ASSOCIATE PROGRAM?
An opportunity for scientists and engineers from U.S. industrial, professional, trade and other organizations to collaborate in research at either the Gaithersburg, Maryland or Boulder, Colorado laboratories of the National Bureau of Standards on projects of clear mutual interest to the Sponsor and NBS for specified periods on a full time basis, under the sponsorship of their employers.

WHAT DOES THE RESEARCH ASSOCIATE PROGRAM OFFER TO INDUSTRY?
- An opportunity to work under the supervision of and to consult with NBS professionals of recognized stature in their fields.
- Use of the extensive laboratory and related facilities at NBS.
- Exposure to the full spectrum of NBS conferences, information and services.
- A means of communicating industrial views and needs directly to NBS.

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR A RESEARCH ASSOCIATE PROGRAM?
- Objectives must be within the scope of NBS activities and interests.
- Objectives must offer the prospect of publishable results of interest and significance to the industrial and technical communities represented and thus ultimately to the public.

WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESEARCH ASSOCIATE PROGRAMS?
Programs are feasible in almost every area of Bureau activity. The scope is suggested by the Technical Activities list provided with this leaflet. Plans for specific Programs are defined through direct discussion between the Sponsor's representatives and NBS professional staff members.

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HOW CAN POTENTIAL SPONSORS LEARN MORE ABOUT RESEARCH ASSOCIATE PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES?

By contacting the Director, ORTA, who coordinates all Research Associate Programs, provides information to potential sponsors and arranges meetings between them and the appropriate NBS personnel.

HOW IS A RESEARCH ASSOCIATE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED?

When a plan which meets the criteria for a Research Associate Program has been defined, NBS prepares a Memorandum of Agreement to be executed by both parties. This Agreement sets forth the objective and scope of the project, names the Research Associate(s), identifies the individuals responsible for the project, and describes the relationship between the Sponsor and NBS. A model Agreement is available for inspection upon request.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO BE A RESEARCH ASSOCIATE?

Any individual having the background and experience to perform independent research in the field covered by the program. The Sponsor and NBS must agree on the qualifications and acceptability of the candidate.

HOW ARE RESEARCH ASSOCIATES SUPPORTED?

- A Research Associate remains the employee of the sponsoring organization, which pays the Associate's salary, fringe benefits and travel, and makes arrangements as necessary for temporary relocation of the Research Associate for the period of his or her assignment to the program.
- NBS provides at no cost to the Sponsor technical supervision, office and laboratory space, routine supplies and services and the use of research equipment not normally subject to time or other usage charges.
- Special supplies and services such as materials, shop work, technician assistance, computing time, and formal report preparation are billed to the Sponsor at the same rate as applies to any NBS project.

HOW LONG DOES A RESEARCH ASSOCIATE WORK AT NBS?

Usually, one to three years. Programs can be extended (or terminated) by either the Sponsor or NBS. Programs of extended duration are generally carried on by a succession of Research Associates.

CAN MORE THAN ONE RESEARCH ASSOCIATE WORK ON ONE PROGRAM?

Two or more Research Associates, one of whom is normally designated Senior or Principal Research Associate, may be involved simultaneously. The Sponsor may also provide Assistants, Technicians, or instruments to facilitate the work of the Research Associate(s).

WHAT ABOUT PATENT RIGHTS?

Rights to inventions made by a Research Associate become the property of the Research Associate, or the Sponsor, pursuant to any existing employment agreement, subject, however, to the Federal Government having a non-exclusive, irrevocable, paid-up license to have such inventions practiced for or on behalf of the U.S. throughout the world. Rights to inventions made jointly by a Research Associate and an NBS employee will be jointly owned.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, WRITE OR PHONE:

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Research Associate program

A REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLING OF SPONSORS

COMPANIES

ACME-CLEVELAND CORPORATION

ALLEN BRADLEY COMPANY

ARMSTRONG WORLD INDUSTRIES, INC.

AT&T BELL LABORATORIES

BALL CORPORATION

BOEING COMPUTER SERVICES COMPANY

BROWN & SHARPE MANUFACTURING COMPANY

CONTROL DATA CORPORATION

DEERE & COMPANY

DENTSPLY INTERNATIONAL

EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY

EXXON CHEMICAL COMPANY

FMC CORPORATION

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY

GTE LABORATORIES

HEWLETT-PACKARD

HONEYWELL, INC.

IBM CORPORATION

MANAGER SOFTWARE PRODUCTS

MARTIN MARIETTA CORPORATION

WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC CORPORATION

ASSOCIATIONS

AMERICAN CERAMIC SOCIETY

AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION HEALTH FOUNDATION

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS FOUNDATION

AMERICAN IRON AND STEEL INSTITUTE

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR METALS

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR TESTING AND MATERIALS (ASTM)

ASSOCIATION OF PETROLEUM RE-REFINERS

ATOMIC INDUSTRIAL FORUM

COLLEGE OF AMERICAN PATHOLOGISTS

GYPSUM ASSOCIATION

INTERNATIONAL SUGAR RESEARCH FOUNDATION

MAN-MADE FIBER PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

MINERAL INSULATION MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

MOTOR VEHICLE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CORROSION ENGINEERS

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH

OPTICAL MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

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